

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
September 1, 2016
City Council Chambers

A Special Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the City of Woodstock was called to order at 5:30 PM on Thursday, September 1, 2016 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

A roll call was taken.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Ellinghausen, Jaci Krandel, Steve Wenzel, Laurie Kacmar and Chair Erica Poremba.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Assistant Public Works Director Tom Migatz and Chief Deputy City Clerk Jane Howie

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by S. Wenzel, second by L. Kacmar, to approve Minutes from the August 4, 2016 Meeting: Ayes: Ed Ellinghausen, Jaci Krandel, Steve Wenzel, Laurie Kacmar and Chair Erica Poremba. Nays: None. Absentees: None. Abstentions: None. Minutes were approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS: None

A. Staff Liaison Updates

I. Cigarette Receptacles

T. Migatz said the topic of cigarette receptacles is being discussed by the Economic Development Department. Staff is hoping to have additional information to share in the near future.

II. Community Gardens

T. Migatz has not made contact with anyone at Other World Computing yet. Once information is available it will be shared with Commission members.

B. Discussion of rankings of the high-priority items on the Environmental Plan Recommendations List

#114, Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lower the carbon footprint of the City. Several Commissioners ranked this as high-priority; however, E. Ellinghausen didn't rank this as high. He believes that municipal buildings overall produce a very small amount of greenhouse gas emissions compared to District 200 buildings, for example. Tangible results couldn't be expected to be very great in the large scheme of things. T. Migatz has taken all suggestions and compiled a list. This item was ranked as a high-priority by the majority so it's a clear choice in a dominant category.

#4.121, Solid Waste Reduction – Evaluate the feasibility of adopting municipal composting to reduce the amount of household waste sent to landfills. T. Migatz said that municipal composting is a very cumbersome process because of permitting and EPA requirements; therefore can be very expensive. J. Krandel asked if this could be suggested for individuals to make the task more do-able. Perhaps create an educational component to encourage residents on individual composting. Move this item to education. S. Wenzel asked if the City has any Ordinances against residential composting. T. Migatz will look into this. S. Wenzel believes that restaurants / food services are now allowed to compost; however, he's unsure if any local establishments are involved.

J. Krandel suggested that the Commissioners look at their decisions again before making final decisions on the high-priority rankings. E. Poremba said she will bring her laptop to next month's meeting and compile a list of priorities in order of importance to the group, or in the order of what the City can handle. She asked Commissioners to decide if the list should contain what the City can accomplish first, or what they believe the actual priorities are. This will be discussed at next month's meeting. L. Kacmar suggested compiling a list of long-term vs. short-term goals.

C. Placeholder – Construction Debris Recycling

S. Wenzel is not aware of companies that handle the recycling of construction debris. The Commission believes this should be looked into and the information shared. E. Ellinghausen said the Habitat ReStore takes in items to sell. What about items such as gypsum, tile ... How do contractors properly dispose of these types of materials? L. Kacmar said it's up to the contractor / individual. Many use the dumpster at the construction site. Many contractors are not aware of other ways to handle these materials. It's important to raise awareness of available options. E. Ellinghausen said the Defenders work with Falcon Waste and Recycling on Rose Farm Road in Woodstock. Falcon rents dumpsters and recycles shingles. They have a fairly active recycling program for unused shingles as well as asphalt paving. When the Defenders closed their recycling center on McConnell Rd., Falcon took the bailers for plastic, aluminum and glass. This would be great information to share with contractors as well as individuals and add to the City's website. E. Ellinghausen will contact Falcon Waste and Recycling; and E. Poremba will contact the Habitat ReStore to find out what items they accept. This information will be shared with the Commission next month.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by J. Krandel, second by E. Poremba, to adjourn to the Special Joint meeting with the Cultural and Social Awareness Commission at 6:00 PM. Ayes: E. Ellinghausen, J. Krandel, S. Wenzel, L. Kacmar and Chair E. Poremba. Nays: None. Absentees: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Howie
Chief Deputy City Clerk